

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009791
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 /016 R

DRAFTED BY AF/I:LGSHURTLEFF:PCS
APPROVED BY AF:LWALKER
AF/C:RMARCUS
HA/HR:RMAXIM
AF/I:WHLEWIS

-----008118 132016Z /42

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009791

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CM

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ENQUIRIES

REFERENCE: YAOUNDE 0110 AND AF/I MEMO OF 12-15-78

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH THE THRUST OF EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL FOR HANDLING INQUIRIES FROM AI OR OTHER PRIVATE GROUPS SEEKING INFORMATION ON ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. YOU WERE CORRECT IN RAISING ISSUE IN LOW-KEY MANNER WITH RANKING GURC OFFICIALS WHILE AT SAME TIME AVOIDING ACTING AS AI'S INVESTIGATORY AGENT. IN FUTURE, CAN ONLY SUGGEST THAT YOU MIGHT, IN YOUR CONTACTS WITH CAMEROONIAN OFFICIALS, SPECIFICALLY SUGGEST THAT IT IS IS CAMEROON'S OWN BEST INTEREST TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES FROM RESPECTED GROUPS SUCH AS AI.

2. WITH REGARD TO YOUR PROPOSED RESPONSE TO AI, SUGGEST FOLLOWING MODEST CHANGES IN DRAFT CONTAINED REFTEL:
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A) MAKE MENTION OF THE FACT THAT EMBASSY HAS RAISED AI INQUIRY WITH APPROPRIATE GURC OFFICIALS, AND HAS SUGGESTED THEY RESPOND DIRECTLY TO AI; B) DELETE SUGGESTION THAT AI CONTACT UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OR CAMEROONIAN AI CHAPTER AS POSSIBLY GRATUITOUS.

3. WITH REGARD TO INQUIRIES YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM AI,

DEPARTMENT CONTACTED US AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HEAD-
QUARTERS IN WASHINGTON TO SEEK CLARIFICATION. AI STAFFERS
WERE UNAWARE OF COMMUNICATIONS YOU HAVE RECEIVED, BUT
DEDUCE THAT THESE PROBABLY CAME FROM LOCAL US AI CHAPTERS.
AI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR YOUR ACTION IN BRINGING
AI CHAPTER INQUIRIES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GURC.

4. RE YOUR QUESTION ON AF/I MEMO: THIS IS PART OF A
SERIES OF MEMOS ROUTINELY SENT TO AF POST BY BUREAU
HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER. THESE ARE INTENDED TO KEEP
POSTS UP-TO-DATE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION PUBLICA-
TIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND CONDITIONS IN AFRICA AND
TO ELICIT POST EVALUATION OF THE ACCURACY OF SUCH REPORTS.
WE DO NOT EXPECT POSTS TO MAKE EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATIONS
OF THE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN THESE REPORTS, BUT WE DO
WANT POSTS TO BE AWARE THAT SUCH ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN
MADE, ARE WIDELY CIRCULATED IN USG--INCLUDING IN CONGRESS--
-AND CAN HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE COUNTRY'S HUMAN
RIGHTS IMAGE. CHRISTOPHER

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